

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arakawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,621,550) in view of Manabe et al. (JP 11-095221). This rejection is moot based on the cancellation of claims 1-6.

Claims 3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arakawa in view of Manabe, and further in view of Nam et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0039160 A1). This rejection is also moot based on the cancellation of these claims.

Claims 7 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arakawa in view of Manabe, and further in view of Shibahara (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0008836 A1). In response, Applicant amended independent claim 7 to further define the column-like spacers as being arranged in areas between four subpixels and between subpixels of at least two colors, and respectfully traverses the rejection as it applies to amended claim 7.

On page 5, lines 1-6 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Shibahara discloses column-like spacers for maintaining an interval between a pair of substrates constant, and that the spacers are arranged in areas between subpixels. (See FIGs. 1 and 4 of Shibahara). However, as shown in FIG. 1 of Shibahara, the spacers 21 are not located between four subpixels, but instead between a pair of green subpixels. Moreover, the spacers 21 are located between subpixels of a similar color, and not between subpixels of different colors.

In contrast, claim 7 is now amended to define the column-like spacers as being arranged in areas between four subpixels, and between subpixels of at least two colors. Claim 7 further defines the liquid crystal as containing a liquid crystal composition having a fluoro group. Since the cited references do not disclose or suggest all of these features, Applicant respectfully request withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 7 and 10.

Claims 8 and 11-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arikawa in view of Manabe, and further in view of Sawasaki et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0026347 A1). Applicant traverses the rejection of claim 8 for the reasons recited above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 7. With respect to independent claim 11, Applicant amended this claim similar to claim 7 to include the feature of column-like spacers that are arranged in areas between four subpixels, and between subpixels of at least two colors. Claim 11 also defines a liquid crystal as containing a liquid crystal composition having a fluoro group. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 11 and 12 based on these amendments.

Sawasaki is cited by the Examiner as showing spacers 25a in FIG. 9 that are formed by exposing and developing a photoresist 25 to maintain a cell gap constant over an entire display region. However, Sawasaki fails to disclose or suggest the features now recited in amended claim 11, which include a liquid crystal containing a liquid crystal composition having a fluoro group, and column-like spacers that are arranged in areas between four subpixels, and between subpixels of at least two colors. Since the

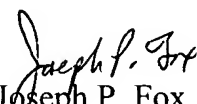
cited references do not disclose all of the features of amended claim 11 and its respective dependent claim 12, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 8 and 11-12 is respectfully requested.

Claims 13-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arikawa in view of Manabe, and further in view of Yamada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,729,318). This rejection is now moot based on the cancellation of claims 13-16.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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